

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Bloomingburg Fire District has been awarded a \$108,671 federal grant to purchase new firefighting equipment, including breathing apparatuses and turnout gear. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"This federal grant will allow the Bloomingburg Fire District to purchase much-needed equipment that will enable its volunteers to continue to provide the highest level of service to the community," Hinchey added. "This new equipment will help keep our firefighters safe as they protect the public from fires and other emergencies."

"This grant will be used for 40 sets of personal protective equipment and 8 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus," said Harold Baird, Fire Commissioner of the Bloomingburg Joint Fire District. "This will help to keep our volunteer fireman safe and protected from harm's way. Additionally, this grant money will permit us to meet all OSHA standards and to ensure our fire equipment and apparatus is up to date without having to place any financial burden on the tax payers of Bloomingburg Fire District. We are happy to serve the Bloomingburg area."

The funds allocated to the Bloomingburg Fire District will be used to purchase eight new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus masks, which will provide firefighters with an oxygen system to be used inside burning buildings. The fire department will outfit its firefighters with new turnout gear, which includes flame retardant boots, trousers, and jackets, to protect firefighters as they serve the people of Bloomingburg.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$17.9 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his Congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.

